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JUN 29 2007

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of : DECISION ON APPLICATION
Fries et al. : FOR
Application No. 10/743,591 : PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT
Filed: December 22, 2003 :
Atty Docket No. 133197/GETS :
5319.1 :

This is a decision on the "Application for Patent Term Adjustment," filed February 15, 2007. Applicants request additional patent term pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(b) and 1.703(b) on the basis that the Notice of Allowance was mailed on December 29, 2006, which is 3 years and 7 days after the filing date of the application.

The instant application for patent term adjustment requests reconsideration of the patent term adjustment as it relates to the Office's failure to issue the patent within 3 years of the filing date. A decision is being **held in abeyance** until after the actual patent date. Knowledge of the actual date the patent issues is required to calculate the amount, if any, of additional patent term patentee is entitled to for Office failure to issue the patent within 3 years. See § 1.703(b).

37 CFR 1.703(b) provides that:

The period of adjustment under § 1.702(b) is the number of days, if any, in the period beginning on the day after the date that is three years after the date on which the application was filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) or the national stage commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371(b) or (f) in an international application and ending on the date a patent was issued, ...

Pursuant to this section, the period of adjustment is calculated based on the date of issue of the patent and not based on the date of mailing of the Notice of Allowance, as asserted by applicants.

Patentee is given **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the issue date of the patent to file a written request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment for Office failure to issue the patent within 3 years. A copy of this decision should accompany the request. Patentee may seek such consideration without payment of an additional fee. However, as to all other bases for seeking reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated in the patent, all requirements of § 1.705(d) must be met. Requests for reconsideration on other bases must be timely filed and must include payment of the required fee.

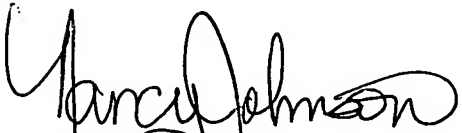
Petitioner is reminded that if an application is entitled to an adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), the entire period during which the application was pending (except for periods excluded under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B)(i)-(iii)), and not just the period beginning three years after the actual filing date of the application, is the period of delay under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) in determining whether periods of delay overlap under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A). Thus, any days of delay for Office issuance of the patent more than 3 years after the filing date of the application which overlap with the days of patent term adjustment accorded prior to the issuance of the patent will not result in any additional patent term adjustment. See 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A), and 37 CFR § 1.703(f). See also *Revision of Patent Term Extension and Patent Term Adjustment Provisions; Final Rule*, 69 Fed. Reg. 21704 (April 22, 2004).

The Office acknowledges submission of the \$200.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e). No additional fees are required.

The application is being forwarded to the Publications Division for issuance of a patent. The patent term adjustment indicated on the patent (as shown on the Issue Notification mailed about three weeks prior to patent issuance) will include any additional adjustment accrued both for Office delay in issuing the patent more than four months after payment of the issue fee and satisfaction of all outstanding requirements, and for the Office taking in excess of three years to issue the patent (to

the extent that the three-year period does not overlap with periods already accorded).

Telephone inquiries specific to this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3219.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Johnson". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "N" and a cursive "Johnson".

Nancy Johnson
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions